DR. A. SREENIVASAN :—" Are not the members of this Board subordinates to the Chairman? When such is the case are they expected to express their opinions fearlessly whenever articles are condemned? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Articles which are considered unserviceable are either destroyed or auctioned. The Director of the Institute is the Chairman of the Board. Other members are people in the Institute."

DR. A. SREENIVASAN :—" What I want to suggest is when the other members of the Board are subordinates to the Director, do the Government expect them to express their opinions fearlessly? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I do not think there is any difficulty to express their opinions."

DR. A. SREENIVASAN :—" Is it not a fact that some of the so-called condemned article have been purchased by agents of people who knew the value of those articles? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I have no information, Sir."

SRI K. BHASHYAM :—" May I know whether there could be any objection for the Government to associate a member who is not an official in this Board to avoid this kind of objection? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" That suggestion will be considered, Sir."

Working of the Madras State Indian Medical Practitioners Co-operative Stores, Limited, Adyar.

4-30 p.m. * 294 Q.—SRI A. GAJAPATHY NAYAGAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Madras State Indian Medical Practitioners Co-operative Stores, Limited, Adyar, Madras, serves the needs of both the Andhra State and Madras State in regard to indigenous medicines;

(*b*) whether the Co-operative Stores, Madras, gets permits for the export of prohibited indigenous medicines such as Asavas and Arishtams for catering to the needs of the Andhra State; and

(*c*) on what basis the sale price of the exported medicines is fixed?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir. It serves the needs of its members in both the States.

" (*b*) It was not getting permits for the export of prohibited indigenous medicines out of the Madras State although the conditions of licence issued to the Stores require taking out such permits. Necessary instructions have since been issued to ensure that such transactions do not take place in future.

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"(c) The sale price of exported medicines is fixed on the basis of the cost of raw materials used, labour and supervision charges involved for the preparation and a margin of 20 per cent over the cost of the production. Postage and sales tax are charged separately."

SRI A. GAJAPATHY NAYAGAR :—" Sir, are the preparations of medicines up to the standard? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I suppose they are up to the standard, for they are widely used by L.I.Ms., G.C.I.Ms., municipalities and local bodies."

SRI A. GAJAPATHY NAYAGAR :—" Are the persons who make the preparations qualified? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Who is to decide that they are up to the standard? May I know whether there is any body constituted by Government to judge their standard? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" There is no separate body for the purpose, Sir."

Delay in getting permits for bringing firewood from non-forest areas.

* 295 *Q.*—SRI N. ANNAMALAI PILLAI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a delay of two months in getting permits from the District Forest Officers for bringing firewood from non-forest areas; and

(b) whether the Government propose to authorise the Revenue Inspectors or Tahsildars concerned to issue permits in this **regard?**

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) No, Sir. The permits are generally issued expeditiously on application.

" (b) No, Sir."

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" Are the Government aware of the fact that while prices of other commodities have fallen down, the price of firewood has increased in the City of Madras? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have no idea about the increase in price of firewood. If the hon. Member would give me any particulars, I shall look into the matter."

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" Sir, the fact is that the price of firewood is very high, much more than what it was during the war period. Will the Government see that adequate supply is made to the City of Madras through private agencies, so that the price may come to its proper level? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Yes, Sir. I shall look into it."